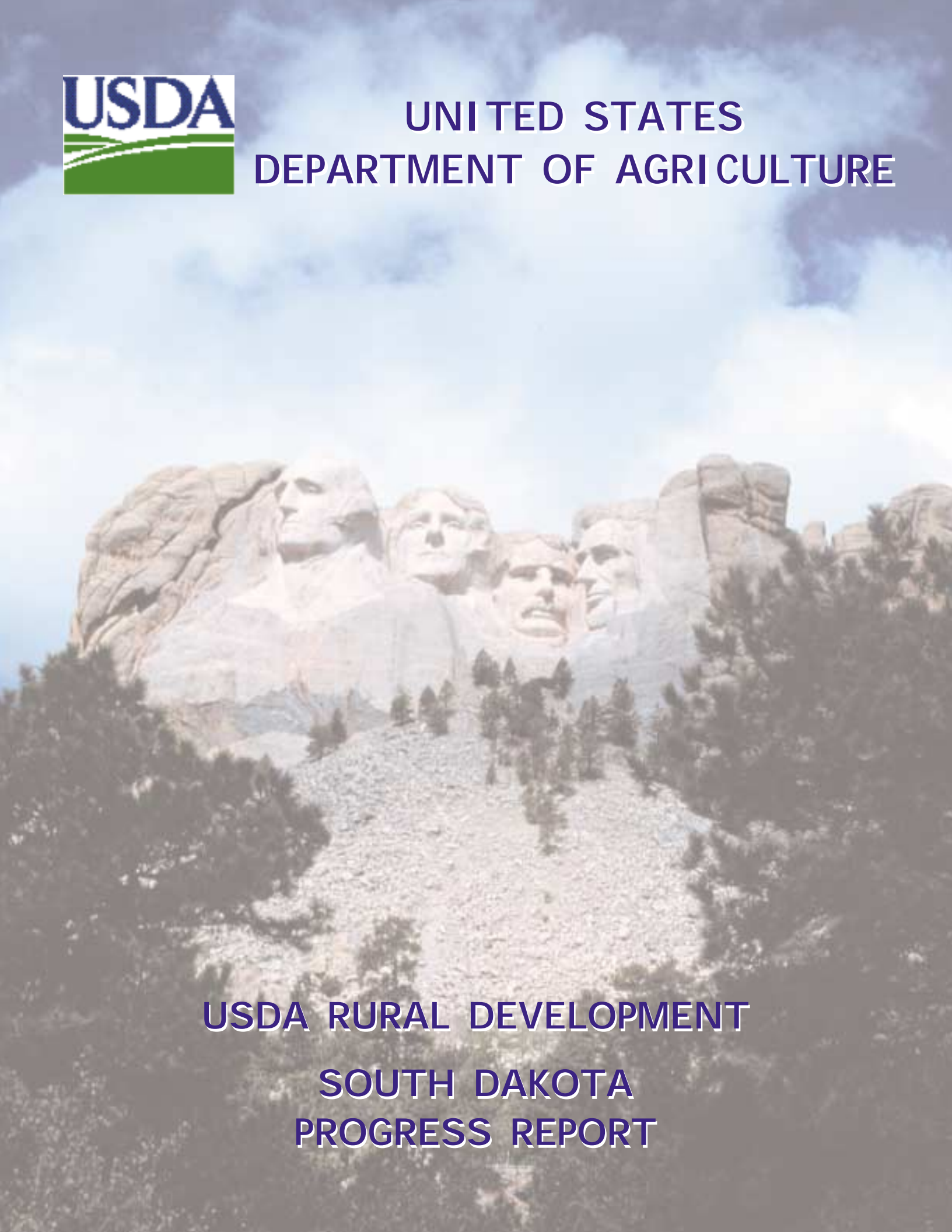




**UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**



USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT

**SOUTH DAKOTA
PROGRESS REPORT**

South Dakota



OPPORTUNITY ABOUNDS

Developing sustainable communities in rural America has been, and continues to be, one of our greatest challenges at USDA. In 2000, USDA Rural Development employees in South Dakota continue to take the lead in developing new ways in which to provide much-needed services to their rural customers. Rural Development employees are finding new ways to bring fresh ideas and resources to local communities by creating an environment which allows local communities to make a difference in the lives of their residents.

By joining together in partnership with rural communities, for-profit and non-profit organizations as well as other state and federal agencies, USDA Rural Development has been able to dramatically improve life in rural America. The legacy of this effort is everywhere on the rural landscape: improved rural housing, community facilities, businesses, cooperatives and utility services.

We should all be proud of what has been accomplished in rural South Dakota and throughout this country. The accomplishments outlined in this report are a reflection of USDA's commitment to the residents of rural South Dakota.

Dan Glickman
Secretary of Agriculture



Since the early part of this century, USDA has provided financing to over 20,000 communities for water and waste water systems; over 1,000 rural electric cooperatives and 1,000 telephone providers have received USDA financing to provide telephone and electrical service to residents in the far corners of rural America. In 1999 alone, USDA financing helped: create 200,000 jobs; assist 67,000 rural Americans buy or improve their homes; construct or renovate 2,181 affordable rental housing units and renovate 100 rental complexes; start or expand 3,600 rural businesses or cooperatives; build or expand 620 community facilities (including town halls, libraries, day care centers, police stations, health clinics, etc.) which will serve nearly 6 million rural Americans; and brought first-time telephone and information superhighway services to 170,000 rural Americans.

We are proud of South Dakota's accomplishments and the role USDA Rural Development plays in rural development across our great nation.

Jill Long-Thompson
Under Secretary for USDA Rural Development

STATE DIRECTOR OF THE YEAR

Dallas Tonsager receives National State Director of the Year award from USDA Secretary Dan Glickman and Under Secretary Jill Long-Thompson in 1999.





A Message from Dallas Tonsager, State Director of USDA Rural Development

Dear Friends,

The last several years have been a period of unprecedented change, improvements and growth for USDA Rural Development, formerly known as the Farmers Home Administration. We have reorganized, reduced staff and have significantly increased resources for use by communities and the citizens of South Dakota. USDA Rural Development is now entirely focused on assisting economic development in the rural areas of our state.

In the last six years we have provided over \$578.5 million in grants, loans and loan guarantees, while addressing every aspect of economic development throughout our state; including America's first Enterprise Community in Beadle and Spink Counties and America's first American Indian Empowerment Zone at Pine Ridge. Our employees bring creativity and innovativeness to every aspect of the work we do; we are both proud of their efforts and pleased with the results.

During this Administration, thousands of additional people are now living in housing or apartment complexes and there are dozens of new revolving loan funds that have the technical ability to address economic development in their communities. Also, new value added agricultural projects are under construction and additional activities are being created by the Value Added Development Center that was funded in part by USDA Rural Development and agricultural group partners. Thousands of miles of new delivery lines for rural water systems have been or are in the process of being built, and over the next ten years South Dakota will provide water to virtually every location in our state.

While there is much work to be done in our small communities, USDA Rural Development is on track to provide the resources necessary to make sure those places in South Dakota who are missing the booming economy will have the opportunity in the next decade to grow and sustain economic development and a meaningful quality of life.

The next giant steps to be taken will be in technology, whether it is in distance learning, telemedicine programs or distance work centers. USDA Rural Development is ready to assist those who are seeking creative innovative ventures within our state. With our twenty-two assistance programs, I believe we are poised to help people and communities meet the challenges of the 21st Century.

A thank you is extended to our many partners in South Dakota who have worked closely with us to expand the use of our programs. As you will see in the data that follows, we have moved into many new areas and have dramatically expanded the resources that are being provided to South Dakotans. In this publication we have tried to capture a picture of our work over the last six years. It is my strong belief that government can be a partner in the progress of communities and individuals, especially in rural areas of America. Our customers and their many successes are living proof.

We also thank our dedicated employees for their commitment to the mission of Rural Development, and all the ways they have helped to plant the seeds of change in South Dakota.

South Dakota

RURAL HOUSING SERVICE

Accepting responsibility for homeownership is a great feeling for Americans, especially first time homeowners. Rural Housing Service continues to play a significant role in making homeownership and the American Dream come true, whether it be for families, single parents working to improve themselves, or others who may be challenged with lower income levels.

Several programs are available to rural families and individuals, such as bank loans which are guaranteed by USDA Rural Development, direct home ownership loans, home repair loans and grants, rural rental housing loans, housing site loans, and a program which allows individuals and families to contribute their own labor to the equity requirements of homeownership.

Over the last five years, Rural Housing Service in South Dakota has distinguished themselves by funding not only individual homeownership at record levels, but also a considerable number of new multi-family units. Both single family and multi-family home ownership brings with it levels of stability to communities and increased tax bases. New homes are greatly contributing to the economy by creating jobs in construction, manufacturing, financing and other industries.



Photo courtesy of the Aberdeen American News

Life improvements: Louis Quinn said he's working to improve life for his 7-year old daughter, Autumn, whose photo he holds. With the help of a USDA Rural Development loan, the Sisseton man has purchased and is remodeling this house for the two of them.

Of special note, Rural Housing Service has funded critical and affordable housing on Indian Reservations in South Dakota, especially with the use of several new multi-family housing units.

Partnerships with Native American housing entities have contributed to RHS successes in Indian housing.

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS IN RURAL SOUTH DAKOTA							
PROGRAM FUNDING ACTIVITY FISCAL YEAR 1995 - 2000 (in millions)							
	FY '95	FY '96	FY '97	FY '98	FY '99	FY '00	TOTALS
Rural Housing Services							
Guaranteed Rural Housing Loans	\$10,643,150	\$14,729,627	\$29,523,182	\$52,435,864	\$49,605,673	\$45,290,809	\$202,228,305
Rural Rental Housing	\$3,622,370	\$2,297,678	\$3,038,967	\$4,243,890	\$3,844,630	\$4,395,215	\$21,442,750
Rental Assistance	\$7,214,163	\$6,046,938	\$7,334,493	\$11,276,387	\$10,323,917	\$9,052,952	\$51,248,850
Direct Rural Housing (502, 504, HPG)	\$8,110,020	\$8,188,345	\$5,378,021	\$6,801,258	\$7,015,463	\$8,583,962	\$44,077,069
Self-Help Technical Assistance Grants	\$166,210	\$101,185	\$316,726	\$20,670	\$188,816	\$456,170	\$1,249,777
Sub-Total	\$29,755,913	\$31,363,773	\$45,591,389	\$74,778,069	\$70,978,499	\$67,779,108	\$320,246,751

Benefits (1995 - 2000)
5,928 Families Served

OUR GOALS

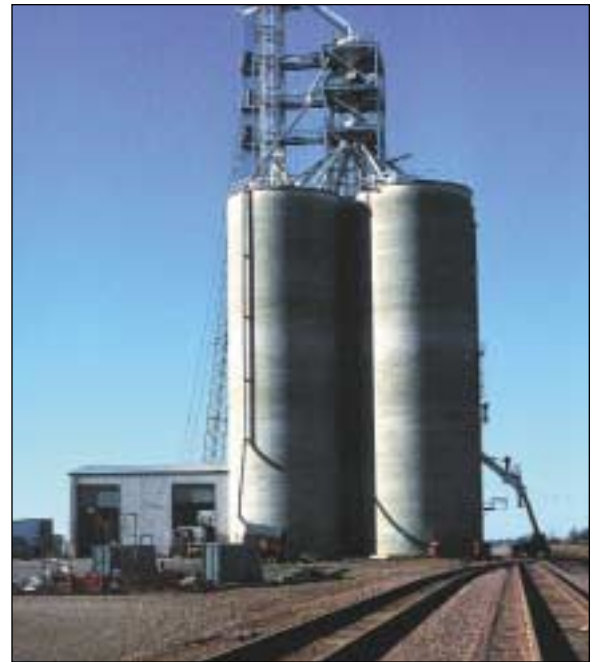
- ✓ To deliver Rural Development's housing programs fairly to all people, while ensuring their Civil Rights.
- ✓ To identify targeted areas of underserved populations.
- ✓ To expand relationships with private lenders and other housing partners.
- ✓ To seek leveraged funds from a variety of sources.
- ✓ To implement a viable Self Help Housing Program.
- ✓ To ensure more successful homeowners by providing homeownership training.

RURAL BUSINESS-COOPERATIVE SERVICE

Improving economies in rural areas cannot happen without employment. Rural Business Service dedicates its programs to business and industry opportunities by making direct and guaranteed loans, Rural Business Enterprise Grants, Rural Business Opportunity Grants, Rural Economic Development Grants, Rural Economic Development Loans, Rural Business and Industry Loans, and making funds available for Intermediary Re-lending Programs across South Dakota. Each of these programs are designed to either create or save jobs by helping new businesses get started, or by helping established companies stay in business or expand their operations.

Another priority for RBS is the development of cooperatives in South Dakota. Cooperatives have proven to be a critical component in saving family farms, impacting local economies, and building competitive businesses that can prosper in the global marketplace. RBS invests financial resources and technical assistance in rural businesses, cooperatives, and communities by building partnerships that leverage public, private and cooperative resources to stimulate rural economies. While South Dakota seriously lags behind in the effective economic use of cooperatives, there is an increasing understanding that cooperatives have played a critical role in the American economy for over 100 years, and that the application of cooperative business structures in rural economies is virtually limitless.

NEW GRAIN TERMINAL GIVES SOUTH DAKOTA GRAIN FARMERS COMPETITIVE ACCESS TO MARKETS



USDA photo by Patrick Gross

This grain loading facility, near Elk Point and Jefferson, is helping 600 South Dakota grain farmers increase their market competitiveness. Southeast Farmer Elevator Co-op used a \$2.1 million B&I loan guarantee to finance the facility.

BENEFITS (1995 - 2000). \$173.1 Million Utilized; 2,001 Jobs Saved; and 1,414 Jobs Created

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS IN RURAL SOUTH DAKOTA							
PROGRAM FUNDING ACTIVITY FISCAL YEAR 1995 - 2000 (in millions)							
	FY '95	FY '96	FY '97	FY '98	FY '99	FY '00	TOTALS
Rural Business/Cooperative Service							
Rural Business Enterprise Grants	\$1,658,000	\$657,000	\$503,900	\$794,236	\$942,200	\$1,180,800	\$5,736,136
Business & Industry Guaranteed Loans	\$10,951,000	\$665,000	\$7,319,800	\$7,532,000	\$8,950,477	\$2,830,600	\$38,248,877
Business & Industry Direct	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$540,000	\$540,000
Intermediary Relending Program	\$3,000,000	\$600,000	\$1,000,000	\$2,000,000	\$500,000	\$2,375,000	\$9,475,000
Rural Economic Development Loan/Grants	N/A	N/A	\$1,340,000	\$900,000	\$1,450,000	\$817,000	\$4,507,000
Rural Business Opportunity Grant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$86,800	\$86,800
Rural Cooperative Development Grant	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	\$125,000	\$125,000
Rural Utilities Service Loans To Electric/Telephone Coops	\$13,457,000	\$17,211,000	\$22,729,000	\$25,374,000	\$20,026,000	\$15,666,000	\$114,463,000
Sub-Total	\$29,066,000	\$19,133,000	\$32,092,700	\$36,600,236	\$31,868,677	\$23,621,200	\$173,181,813

South Dakota

COMMUNITY PROGRAMS

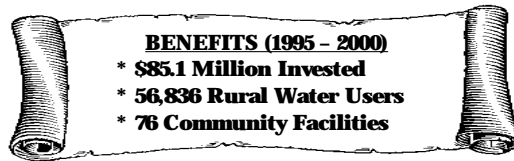
Another source of pride for USDA Rural Development is in the funding of community projects. Increases in the number of essential facilities funded for communities by Rural Development are looked at with pride by staff as these programs continue to positively impact the quality of life for seniors, children in day care centers, and rural residents who use fire departments, hospitals, assisted living centers, nursing homes, community centers and other facilities.

Additionally, funding for rural water systems and community waste treatment programs statewide are supported by Rural Development through the Rural Utilities Service. Accomplishments in funding critical infrastructure for rural areas have received statewide and national recognition. Included in RUS programs is the increasingly popular Distance Learning and Telemedicine Loan and Grant Program. South Dakotans have been very successful using this program in recent years to enhance both learning and healthcare opportunities for rural residents.



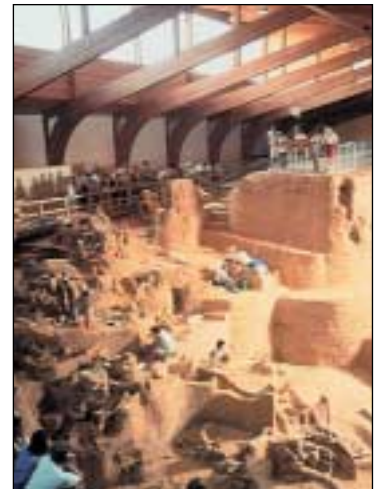
Left: Sisseton-Wahpeton Tribal Chairman Andrew Grey, BDM Rural Water Manager David Wade, Deputy Administrator John Romano, Rural Utilities Service, and State Director Dallas Tonsager celebrate Water 2000 funding of \$3.2 million to add new rural water users in northeast South Dakota.

Water 2000 funding has exceeded \$19 million for rural water users in the last five years in South Dakota.



BENEFITS (1995 - 2000)

- * **\$85.1 Million Invested**
- * **56,836 Rural Water Users**
- * **76 Community Facilities**



Right: Mammoth Site in Hot Springs funded in part with a Community Facility loan.

USDA RURAL DEVELOPMENT INVESTMENTS IN RURAL SOUTH DAKOTA							
PROGRAM FUNDING ACTIVITY FISCAL YEAR 1995 - 2000 (in millions)							
	FY '95	FY '96	FY '97	FY '98	FY '99	FY '00	TOTALS
Community Programs							
Community Facility Direct Loans	\$2,667,350	\$3,549,900	\$1,285,300	\$1,336,300	\$2,056,710	\$2,725,660	\$13,621,220
Community Facility Guaranteed Loans	\$870,000	\$2,885,000	\$976,700	\$2,893,000	\$612,500	\$290,000	\$8,527,200
Community Facility Grants	N/A	N/A	\$50,000	\$79,650	\$202,450	\$1,158,500	\$1,490,600
Water & Environmental Program Loan/Grants	\$6,837,550	\$10,760,138	\$11,038,400	\$7,717,560	\$9,052,000	\$12,460,100	\$57,865,748
Distance Learning & Telemedicine Loans/Grants	\$300,000	\$672,248	\$209,205	\$871,761	\$296,900	\$1,253,253	\$3,603,367
Sub-Total	\$10,674,900	\$17,867,286	\$13,559,605	\$12,898,271	\$12,220,560	\$17,887,513	\$85,108,135



A ten year \$127,350 Community Facility loan helped finance this new fire truck for the Tea Volunteer Fire Department which was built at Lyons, South Dakota. It provided increased pumping capacity and a nice addition to the fire protection equipment for the Tea area.



Southern Black Hills children join in a groundbreaking for the Custer Day Care Center and playground, which will provide a safe and secure learning environment for forty children of southern Pennington County, the City of Custer, northern Fall River and Custer County.

FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY FACILITY PROJECTS (1995 - 2000)

PROJECT	AMOUNT	CITY/TOWN
Abbott House Inc. - Pathfinder Lodge	\$20,000	Ft. Thompson
Adjustment Training Center	\$20,000	Chamberlain
Adjustment Training Center - Vocational Program Facility	\$306,000	Chamberlain
Alcohol/Drug Rehabilitation Center	\$25,500	Mitchell
Bridgewater Development Corporation - Day Care Center	\$45,000	Bridgewater
Charitable and Economic Development Corporation	\$30,000	Lemmon
City of Alexandria - Main Street Rehabilitation	\$385,000	Alexandria
City of Edgemont Assisted Living Home	\$82,000	Edgemont
City of Waubay - Library	\$77,000	Waubay
Community Center	\$220,000	Burke
Community Child Services - Daycare Center	\$50,300	Wall
Corsica Daycare	\$13,210	Corsica
Corsica Daycare	\$10,000	Corsica
Cresbard Volunteer Fire Department	\$111,500	Cresbard
Custer Community Hospital - Assisted Living Cost Overrun	\$740,000	Custer
Custer County Child Care	\$255,000	Custer
Custer Daycare	\$50,000	Custer
Eastside Neighborhood Childcare, Health and Wellness	\$210,000	Pierre
Eureka Community Hospital Assisted Living	\$240,000	Eureka
Eureka Fire District	\$135,000	Eureka
Fire Hall	\$150,000	Tyndall
Fire Hall	\$62,000	Turton
Fire Hall	\$100,000	Estelline
Fire Hall	\$15,000	Fairfax
Fire Truck	\$34,000	Ethan
Fire Truck	\$160,000	Plankinton
Fire Truck	\$113,800	Lennox
Fire Truck	\$42,500	Yankton
Fire Truck	\$127,350	Tea
Garretson Child Care	\$81,500	Garretson
Greater Missouri Development	\$37,500	Lemmon
Hot Springs Volunteer Fire - Pumper Truck	\$100,000	Hot Springs
Java Area Fire District - Fire Truck	\$18,000	Java
Lake Area Hospital	\$2,550,000	Webster
Little Hearts Daycare	\$20,000	Estelline
Mammoth Site - Expansion	\$70,000	Hot Springs
Mammoth Site - Expansion of Site	\$230,000	Hot Springs
Mammoth Site Improvements	\$100,000	Hot Springs

PROJECT	AMOUNT	CITY/TOWN
Mitchell Adjustment Training Center - Addition to Building	\$260,000	Mitchell
New Roof for Senior Citizen Center	\$13,000	Bowdle
New Roof for Senior Citizen Center	\$17,500	Bowdle
NHS of Black Hills	\$110,000	Deadwood
Nursing Home Addition	\$580,000	Menno
Oglala Sioux Tribe (vans)	\$15,000	Wanblee
Oglala Sioux Tribe Clinic	\$40,000	Wanblee
Oglala Sioux Tribe Commodity Warehouse	\$281,700	Pine Ridge
OST Office Park	\$1,600,000	Pine Ridge
Oti Kaga Incorporated Office Building	\$291,160	Eagle Butte
Our Home Inc. - Residential Facilities	\$655,500	Huron
Philip Health Services Assisted Living	\$860,000	Philip
Platte Fire Department	\$130,000	Platte
Pollock Fire Department - Truck	\$24,900	Pollock
Rainbow Daycare	\$125,000	Redfield
Scotland Fire Department - Fire Truck	\$50,000	Scotland
Senior Citizens Center (repair)	\$2,450	Marion
Shannon County School Day Care Center	\$15,000	Batesland
Sisseton-Wahpeton School Board - Tiospa Zina School	\$2,000,000	Agency Village
South Park Assisted Living	\$600,000	Bryant
Street Lights	\$10,000	Hot Springs
SuAnne Big Crow Inc.	\$1,150,000	Pine Ridge
T&C Fire Department - Fire Truck	\$90,000	Woonsocket
Tanker Truck	\$14,000	Ardmore
Tenderheart Daycare	\$25,000	Tripp
Tenderheart Daycare	\$45,000	Tripp
Tisezen Memorial Home Assisted Living	\$800,000	Marion
Town of Fairfax - Fire Hall	\$139,000	Fairfax
Town of Hazel - Fire Hall	\$100,000	Hazel
Tripp Fire District - Fire Station	\$296,000	Tripp
Tyndall Rural Fire District - Fire Truck	\$39,500	Tyndall
Wagner Ambulance	\$92,500	Wagner
Wagner Early Childhood Day Care Center	\$400,500	Wagner
Wagner Fire Protection District - Fire Hall	\$238,500	Wagner
Wakonyeja Owayanke Tipi - Day Care Center	\$42,150	White River
Winner Regional Nursing Home	\$5,000,000	Winner
Wounded Knee Day Care Center	\$8,500	Manderson
Yankton Sioux Tribe - Substance Abuse Center	\$440,000	Lake Andes
COMBINED TOTAL OF PROJECTS		\$23,639,020

FUNDING FOR WATER & ENVIRONMENTAL PROGRAMS (1995 - 2000)

PROJECT	AMOUNT	PROJECT	AMOUNT
City of Alexandria	\$128,000	Minnehaha Community Water Corporation	\$1,183,500
City of Arlington	\$585,700	Oglala Sioux Tribe	\$1,550,000
City of Artesian	\$463,000	City of Onida	\$140,000
Aurora-Brule RWS	\$713,540	City of Parkston	\$125,000
BDM RWS	\$2,030,000	City of Ramona	\$76,000
Big Sioux Community RWS	\$624,000	Randall Community Water District	\$2,123,500
Big Stone City	\$949,000	City of Rosholt	\$150,000
City of Blunt	\$347,200	S. Spink/N. Beadle	\$393,200
City of Bryant	\$50,000	City of Selby	\$201,000
City of Buffalo Gap	\$237,000	Sioux RWS	\$2,851,000
Butte-Meade Sanitary District	\$482,800	South Lincoln RWS	\$300,000
B-Y Water	\$800,000	City of South Shore	\$70,000
City of Claremont	\$235,500	City of Spencer	\$346,000
Clay RWS	\$1,512,500	St. Lawrence	\$347,200
City of Colman	\$525,000	City of Strandburg	\$198,000
City of Colome	\$300,000	City of Stratford	\$200,000
Crooks Sanitary	\$145,000	City of Summit	\$180,000
City of Crooks	\$80,000	City of Tea	\$200,000
City of Custer	\$200,000	T-M Rural Water	\$1,998,000
Davison RWS	\$972,700	City of Trent	\$95,000
City of Egan	\$161,000	Tri-County Landfill Association, Inc.	\$1,145,000
City of Elk Point	\$762,000	City of Tulare	\$431,000
City of Elkton	\$469,800	City of Volin	\$74,000
City of Estelline	\$200,000	Warner Sanitary District	\$57,200
Town of Ethan	\$259,900	City of Wentworth	\$164,500
Fall River Water Users District	\$1,000,000	City of White Lake	\$460,000
City of Flandreau	\$700,000	WATER 2000 PROJECTS	
City of Florence	\$130,000	B-Y Water	\$3,020,000
City of Frankfort	\$513,250	Clay RWS	\$1,158,500
City of Gettysburg	\$675,000	Minnehaha Community Water Corporation	\$1,673,000
City of Gregory	\$902,000	Hanson RWS	\$1,103,500
Hanson RWS	\$270,000	B-Y Water	\$1,000,000
City of Herreid	\$360,900	BDM RWS	\$3,495,000
City of Highmore	\$2,151,000	Doland	\$186,320
City of Hurley	\$283,900	Fall River Water Users District	\$2,000,000
City of I sabel	\$225,000	Oglala Sioux Lakota Housing	\$595,000
Kingbrook RWS	\$2,535,600	Lakota Fund	\$285,000
City of Lake Andes	\$465,500	City of Veblen	\$440,000
City of Lake Preston	\$105,550	BDM RWS	\$3,247,000
Lower Brule Sioux Tribe	\$296,188	Big Sioux Community RWS	\$331,600
City of Mellette	\$424,000	COMBINED TOTAL OF PROJECTS	\$57,865,748

RURAL BUSINESS/UTILITIES SERVICE GOALS

- ✓ To deliver Rural Development's Business and Utility Programs fairly to all people, while ensuring their Civil Rights.
- ✓ To serve targeted areas which are underserved in Business and Utilities Programs and place particular emphasis on minorities and women.
- ✓ To expand relationships with public and private financial institutions creating maximum leveraging of funds, and support for individual and community self-help sufficiency.
- ✓ To support value-added projects (cooperatives and others) through Cooperative Development and Rural Business Enterprise Grant Programs, and the development of business ventures which support family farming.

Beadle and Spink Enterprise Community (BASEC) ... a Presidential Empowerment Initiative

Revolving Loan Fund Programs

BASEC started revolving loan funds in business, livestock, rural development and housing with the initial Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) funds of \$2.95 million. In addition, BASEC received a \$1 million Intermediary Relending Program (IRP) loan and three \$500,000 Rural Business Enterprise Grants (RBEG) from USDA Rural Development for revolving loans and technical assistance.

Results from BASEC's programs include:

Business Loans

A total of 50 business loans have been funded through BASEC's various loan programs. Eight CD Pledge, 2 Direct, 15 IRP, and 25 RBEG loans have been made totaling \$2,222,338 thus creating/saving 145 jobs.

Examples of projects are retail stores, fertilizer sales, convenience and grocery stores, repair shops, busing, lawn care, construction, bird feed manufacturing, trucking businesses, locker, cafes, a mobile home park and agriculture related businesses (fencing, hay moving, grain elevator, etc.)

Livestock Loans

A total of 39 livestock CD Pledge loans have been made for a total of \$920,185. This program works directly with a bank, the borrower and BASEC.

BASEC implemented the Youth Opportunity Livestock Loan Program. This program is designed to help ninth and tenth graders purchase livestock and gain livestock management skills. To date, 20 youth loans have been approved totaling \$77,750. Additionally, these youth projects brought over 220 head of livestock to the BASEC area.

BASEC also has a commitment to assisting with the development of valued added agriculture projects in the BASEC area.

Rural Development Loans (not USDA)

BASEC rural development loans promote and support community based and community focused rural development efforts. This is a fairly broad category from which many different community projects could qualify. Nine projects have been funded totaling \$712,900 in BASEC funds. Examples of projects done under this program are construction of an apartment complex, three new school buildings, computers for schools, a fire station and ambulance.

BASEC has also assisted the Tulare Economic Development Corporation and the Yale Gold Community in writing grant proposals. Both projects were successful and will receive a total of \$137,000 in

Rural Business Enterprise Grant funding from USDA Rural Development. Tulare is constructing a spec building to be leased out to another business/organization and Yale is constructing a community owned café along with extra space to be leased out to another business also.

Housing Loans

BASEC's Step Rate Housing Program has funded 27 housing projects, totaling \$1,236,220 of BASEC funds. Thirteen new homes were built and 14 were projects for purchase of existing homes. This program will not be open for applications until additional loan funds can be secured.

The housing program has received three Housing Preservation Grants (HPG) from USDA Rural Development totaling \$378,065. These funds are awarded to income eligible homeowners to repair health and safety hazards in the home. Forty-five houses have been improved with the HPG funds. Approximately \$225,864 in grant funds were passed on to the BASEC residents for these projects. BASEC has expended \$69,135 for 16 HPG loans to compliment the grant awards.

BASEC established a home improvement loan fund called the Home Enhancement Lending Program (HELP). There have been 8 loans made to date, totaling \$58,950. Recently, the board of directors have increased the maximum loan amount from \$7,500 to \$10,000.

Summary of Programs

One hundred sixty-nine projects have been funded utilizing \$5.2 million of BASEC funds – creating/saving 196 jobs; not including temporary construction jobs. Over \$10 million dollars have been leveraged from other sources for projects in the BASEC community since this EC designation.

Other BASEC Projects

BASEC serves on the advisory council for Cornerstones Career Planning Center's School to Work (STW) program.

BASEC's commitment to increase community leadership development has been enhanced by being named as a site for SDSU's Rural Challenge Program funded by the Annenberg Foundation.

BASEC was chosen as one of six enterprise communities highlighted in a video by the National Community Action Association, Washington, DC.

BASEC's program has received national recognition in a variety of ways. Executive Director Hintz has been asked to give several national presentations and provides peer assistance to other communities throughout the nation.



BASEC Staff pictured left to right: Pam Hornig, Office Coordinator; Andrea Torgerson, Housing Director; Allen Rasmussen, Loan Specialist; Lori Hintz, Executive Director; and Shari Blue, Administrative Coordinator.



BASEC Board Members left to right: Ron Whites, Iroquois; Danny Lake, Doland, who has been replaced by Gary Deckert (not pictured), Doland; JoAnn Kretchmer, Cavour; Craig Schroeder, Doland; Susan Binger, Tulare; Oscar Solheim, Frankfort; Paul Domke (President), Tulare; Rick Erickson, Yale; and Dale Metter, Iroquois.

South Dakota

OGLALA OYATE WOITANCAN EMPOWERMENT ZONE 2008

In 1999 a portion of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation was designated as an Empowerment Zone (EZ) following a successful national competition. This Presidential Initiative empowers community citizens and local leaders by using long term strategic planning supported by two million dollars a year for ten years. The funding is used in leveraging other monies and resources to enhance local economic goals and benchmarks, chosen by locals. The EZ is located in Kyle and will work on job creation and efforts to break cycles of poverty.

The Oglala Empowerment Zone strategic plan features goals and projects in five areas which have been identified by local leaders in concert with USDA Rural Development officials who administer the program. They include BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION, BASIC NEEDS, FAMILY AND AFFORDABLE HOUSING. Over twenty projects have been identified for the first two years of operation. By leveraging, partnering and collaborating, and taking advantage of preferential points given on certain USDA programs, the Empowerment Zone expects to convert the four million dollars into over twenty million dollars of investment in economic and community activity projects in the early stages of the ten year effort.

CHAMPION COMMUNITIES

Planning seminars were held with tribal economic development staff to develop competitive applications for the congressionally authorized Empowerment Zone Initiative. Four tribal applications came from Cheyenne River, Lower Brule, Rosebud, and Oglala Sioux Tribe, based on poverty levels. The fifth application came from Day County, which competed in a category determined by out-migration statistics. The Oglala Sioux won one of the national empowerment zone designations and will receive funding and technical assistance targeted to economic revitalization. The other four applicants were offered Champion Community status by USDA Rural Development and have chosen to sign MOAs with USDA, which will assure partnering and collaboration efforts designed to use strategic planning in revitalizing local economies.

A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT

Following President Clinton's visit in July of 1999, he asked that efforts be given to enhancing youth activities on the Pine Ridge Reservation. The EZ joined several local and federal partners in forming a Youth Coalition to explore feasibility of a youth center. On August 8, 2000, a Ground Blessing was performed on land chosen for the new SuAnne Big Crow Youth and Wellness Center, which is affiliated with the National Boys and Girls Club. The new facility is to be located in Pine Ridge. Youth activities will also be enhanced reservation-wide with the help of the EZ, the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the

Boys and Girls Club who will all contribute to enhancing existing facilities in other communities.



State Director Dallas Tonsager, Senator Tim Johnson, Robbie Callaway of Nat'l Boys & Girls Club and Senator Tom Daschle view a model of the proposed SuAnne Big Crow Youth & Wellness Center.



President Clinton visits Pine Ridge in July 1999.

In recent years a considerable number of projects have been funded by loans and grants on South Dakota reservations by USDA Rural Development. A sample of these projects include:

- Rural Business Enterprise Grant in the amount of \$50,000 for a Micro Business Loan Incubator.
- Currently working on a tribal Water and Environmental Program loan/grant in the amount of \$435,160 for sanitary and sewer improvements.
- Multi-Family Housing 515 New Construction loan to Falcon Limited Partnerships in the amount of \$691,471 for apartments.
- Community Facility loan for \$191,160 and grant for \$100,000 to Oti Kaga, Inc. for a non-profit office building.
- Water and Environmental Program loan for \$130,000 and grant for \$95,000 to the Town of Isabel for water main replacement.
- Currently working on a Water and Environmental Program loan/grant in the amount of 886,000 for a sanitary and storm sewer system in the City of Eagle Butte. Community Facility loan/grant in the amount of \$507,654 for a day care center. Rural Business Enterprise Grant in the amount of \$50,000 for the Micro Business RLF – Four Bands Community Fund.
- Rural Development has partnered with HUD and other agencies to establish a "Self-Help Housing Project" where several houses will be built.
- Two multi-family housing projects totaling \$1.4 million in loans.
- Rural Business Enterprise Grant and a Housing Assistance Grant total \$340,000 for a micro-lender.
- Community Facility loan for a health clinic at \$40,000.
- Two 504 housing grants for elderly totaling \$7,500.
- Four homebuyer education seminars were held.
- Created a MOA with Indian Health Service to fund housing infrastructure on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.
- Community Facility grant for a day care center at \$15,000 on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation.
- Currently working on a \$1.6 million Community Facility loan for a tribal Office Park, two additional multi-family housing projects and a proposed Housing Authority Office building.
- One multi-family housing project totaling \$700,000 in loans.
- Participated in the creation of a non-profit organization which will continue the vision of the strategic plan created for competition in Round II of the Empowerment Zone Initiative called Rosebud Economic Development Corporation (REDCO). REDCO has hired professional staff and since its inception has leveraged over \$1 million in funds targeted to housing needs and economic development on the Rosebud Reservation.
- NESDCAP's \$50,000 Technical Assistance Grant for Homebuyer Education prompted four Native American applications from the Lake Traverse Indian Reservation.



SD Tourism photo

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*Published October 2000 by USDA Rural Development
*1,500 printed at a cost of \$1.60 per copy *Co-edited by Patrick Gross and Tammi Schone